



## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 7, 2003

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### **CITY HOSTS MILLION CAN MONTH TO BENEFIT COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION CENTERS**

*Residents Encouraged to Recycle to Help Park and Recreation Centers*

**SAN DIEGO, CA–** During May 2003, City of San Diego residents can support community Park and Recreation Centers just by recycling. For the second year, the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department will host the Million Can Month campaign to collect one million recyclable containers at the City's 42 recreation centers with recycling stations. By collecting one million containers for recycling the City will earn as much as \$40,000 in revenue. Revenues from containers donated to recreation centers go back to the centers to help fund facility improvements and maintenance, and programs and activities available to the public.

"We have offered recycling stations at recreation centers since 1992 to provide easy and convenient locations to recycle for residents who do not have home recycling," said Richard L. Hays, director of the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department. "Since then, more than 11,000 tons of recyclables have been diverted from disposal at the Miramar Landfill and more than \$600,000 in revenue from the sale of recyclables has been donated to recreation centers."

Since the program's inception the revenue donated has helped purchase items that range from field lighting, mats for gymnastics, tennis court nets, ping pong tables, benches for basketball courts to even hosting special events such as a Spring Egg Hunt and Winter Wonderland where imported snow gave local children the experience of playing in snow during winter.

"In FY'02, our park and recreation recycling program generated more than \$75,000 which will all be given back to the Park and Recreation Department," said Richard L. Hays, director of the Environmental Services Department. "Another benefit that results from citywide recycling is diverting

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waste from our City's Miramar Landfill which is crucial because it only has about 12 years of usable life remaining. In addition, the City is mandated by the state, as are all cities and counties in California, to reduce the amount of waste entering landfills by 50 percent or potentially face fines of \$10,000 per day."

While the campaign title, Million Can Month, suggests recycling cans, the recyclables accepted at the centers are the same as recycled in the City's residential curbside recycling program. The City's goal of recycling one million cans was chosen due to the high value of beverage containers. To participate during the month-long campaign, residents can bring the following recyclable items to recycling stations at recreation centers:

- aluminum and steel cans,
- glass food and beverage containers,
- any plastic bottle (no matter what number is on the bottom) marked "CA Cash Refund" or "CA Redemption Value,"
- any plastic **bottle** with a **narrow neck** and a #1 or #2 on the bottom, and
- newspaper, clean-mixed paper and cardboard.

This year's Million Can Month sponsors are Allan Company, EDCO Disposal Corporation, IMS Recycling Services, The Pepsi Bottling Group of San Diego, SeaWorld, Kyocera Wireless, Kyocera America, Hewlett Packard, and Unisys.

For information about the recycling centers, please call the City's Park and Recreation Department, Public Information at (619) 525-8219. For general information about individual Park and Recreation centers, go to <http://www.sandiego.gov/departments/parkandrecreation>.

The City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department is charged with refuse collection and disposal, recycling and environmentally sound landfill management to meet the City's long-term disposal needs. The Department also oversees the City's management of energy use and explores innovative options for energy independence. For more information on recycling please call (858) 694-7000 or visit the department's web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/departments/environmental-services/>.

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